



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

RE SCR 100 / SR 54

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ron Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, the Hawai'i State Teachers' Association (HSTA) is **IN SUPPORT OF SCR 100 and HR 54.**

While HSTA and the Hawai'i Department of Education have sent copies of our recently completed Joint Salary Study to the Hawai'i State Legislature, we welcome the further review into the teacher retention issues that continue to plague our state.

We know that the "churn" that occurs ultimately impacts our students in the most deleterious ways. Further, every dollar that is used to offset the churn is one less dollar to be used in support of our students, our teachers, our schools.

Further, by including both the Hawai'i DOE and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in the study we would be able to maximize the local expertise that would be beneficial in making recommendations from all angles of this issue. It would also insure that we are getting input from those responsible for hiring teachers, as well as those who help to prepare our future teachers. This can go a long way in providing legislators with information that they can use to address teacher retention in the most appropriate manner.

This particular resolution goes beyond studying the issue into asking for recommendations that we hope would become actionable on the part of the legislative body. We welcome all appropriate actions that will help Hawai'i's students have access to the best teachers possible and Hawai'i's school system to be able to retain them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT OF SCR 100 and HR 54.**